

## Summer 2000

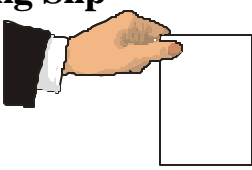
### Routing Slip

\_\_\_\_\_ Managers

\_\_\_\_\_ Supervisors

\_\_\_\_\_ Mechanics

\_\_\_\_\_ Drivers



**Please share the *Passenger Trans-Actions* with other members of your staff.  
Don't let it get buried on your desk.**

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## FY 2001 Comprehensive Transportation Fund Budget Important Updates

The FY 2001 Comprehensive Transportation Fund (CTF) budget is \$230,995,900, a decrease from FY 2000 of \$956,100 or 0.41 percent due to a FY 2000 mid-year supplemental appropriation.

### Formula Operating Assistance

The amount appropriated for formula operating assistance is \$150,652,700, an increase of \$676,400 or 0.45 percent from the previous year. However, since budgeted eligible costs increased 7.6 percent, there will be a negative impact on the percentage of state funds each agency will receive in the local bus operating distribution formula.

### Other Programs

In addition, the appropriation included:

Specialized Services - \$3,749,500 (an increase of \$149,400)  
Municipal Credit - \$2,000,000  
Bus Transit Capital - \$15,042,300 (a decrease of \$2,357,700)  
Planning Grants - \$120,000 (a decrease of \$30,000)  
Ridesharing - \$330,700  
Vanpooling - \$195,000 (an increase of \$50,000)  
Service Development/New Technology - \$325,000  
Regional Service Coordination - \$1,000,000  
Work First Initiative - \$3,979,200  
Intercity Service, Terminals and Equipment - \$4,300,000  
Marine - \$800,000  
Rail Passenger - \$6,000,000 (an increase of \$187,200)  
Rail Freight & Infrastructure - \$8,221,300 (a decrease of \$372,000)  
Port Development - \$408,500

### Legislative Reports

The budget also includes one CTF boilerplate report for the Passenger Transportation Division (PTD): regional services legislative report.

Check the PTD website for more details on the FY2001 CTF budget (<http://mdot.state.mi.us/uptran/PTD/news/pa027100.pdf>).

## Commuter Choice Brochures Coming This Fall

A Commuter Choice brochure is being developed for transit agencies and rideshare offices to use to promote the transit, vanpool, and parking benefit provided in the Internal Revenue Code - Section 132(f). The brochure is targeted to employers, providing them with tax deductibility examples, implementation steps, and record keeping guidance.

Contact Angie Payne at (517) 335-2553 or by e-mail at [paynea@mdot.state.mi.us](mailto:paynea@mdot.state.mi.us) for further information.

## R&E Manual and OAR Are Slated for Revisions

The Local Public Transit Revenue and Expense (R&E) Manual and the accompanying Operating Assistance Report (OAR) are being revised. The revisions will further define data fields to facilitate more effective database querying.

The R&E Manual is used by transit agencies to determine revenues and eligible expenses that are reported to the state for local bus operating assistance. These revenues and expenses are reported on the OAR which will also be revised to reflect the changes in the manual. The OAR must be submitted using the Public Transportation Management System (PTMS).

The draft changes to the Manual and accompanying Report are posted on the PTD website ([www.mdot.state.mi.us/uptran/PTD/pub/draft.pdf](http://www.mdot.state.mi.us/uptran/PTD/pub/draft.pdf)) for comments. The Manual and Report will be reviewed by the Management Advisory Team in August. Per the new Administrative Rules, our goal is to have the new and improved R&E Manual mailed out with the 2002 Annual Application Instructions and the updated OAR in use on PTMS by December 1, 2000.

For additional information, contact Sandy Lovell at 517/335-2525 or e-mail [lovells@mdot.state.mi.us](mailto:lovells@mdot.state.mi.us).



**"Providing the highest quality transportation services"**



Since you have already marked your calendar for October 16-18, 2000, be sure to look for your registration packet to arrive soon (can also be found on the PTD Website [www.mdot.state.mi.us/uptran/PTD](http://www.mdot.state.mi.us/uptran/PTD)).

Valley Plaza in Midland offers a wonderful meeting facility, with many hotel amenities to host our participants in style. Special presenters, a variety of breakout sessions, vendor displays, and evening events will contribute to the success of the meeting. Don't miss this three-day workshop designed specifically for transit professionals.

If you have questions, call Linda Tuttle at 517/373-7645 or e-mail her at [tuttle@mdot.state.mi.us](mailto:tuttle@mdot.state.mi.us).

## Indian Trails Operates Intercity Bus Routes

Three intercity carriers responded to a Request for Proposal (RFP) to operate the state-sponsored east and west Lower Peninsula intercity bus routes. The east route operates along US-23 between Bay City and St. Ignace, and serves the communities of Alpena, Rogers City, Onaway, Cheboygan and Mackinac City. The west route operates along US-131 between Grand Rapids and St. Ignace, and serves the communities of Cadillac, Traverse City, Kalkaska, and Petoskey.

Indian Trails was selected as the most responsive bidder to the RFP. Indian Trails has operated the east and west routes since November 1990 and plans to add four intercity coaches to its fleet to operate this state-sponsored service. Indian Trails is the oldest continuous provider of intercity bus service in the State of Michigan, providing transportation service to the citizens of Michigan since 1910.

For additional information, please contact Forest Kraus at 517/335-2572 or e-mail [krausf2@mdot.state.mi.us](mailto:krausf2@mdot.state.mi.us).

## NTSB Issues Recommendations to Minimize Impaired Driving from Legal Drugs

Prescription and over the counter medications can cause or contribute to transit accidents as documented by many post accident investigations. Two of the most commonly used medications in America, Valium and antihistamine, have been implicated in transit accidents, and other licit (legal) drugs have been documented in accident investigations as well.

As a result of these findings, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) has issued recommendations to minimize further occurrence of this problem. In the future, you may see actions taken by the U.S. Department of Transportation, the modal administrations, and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

MDOT will keep you informed of future related events as they occur. For the current situation, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is strongly encouraging transit systems to take the following two actions: "review your current policies with regard to operators' use of over-the-counter and prescription medications which could result in jeopardizing public safety, and institute educational programs within your systems to educate your operators about the potential dangers of taking certain types of medications." FTA emphasizes that the educational programs should be provided "immediately."

Those transit agencies who must follow the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) drug and alcohol regulations have existing regulations related to driving impaired by licit drugs which they must follow. However, the above FTA recommendations are also good guidelines for those agencies who must follow FHWA drug regulations.

For additional information, contact Amy Edgar, PTD Drug/Alcohol Program Coordinator, at (517) 373-2261 or e-mail at [edgara@mdot.state.mi.us](mailto:edgara@mdot.state.mi.us).

### **Michigan Department of Transportation**

James R. DeSana, Director

### **Urban and Public Transportation**

Philip F. Kazmierski, Deputy Director

Kip Grimes, Administrator

### **Transportation Commission**

Barton W. LaBelle, Chairman

Jack L. Gingrass, Vice Chairman

Lowell B. Jackson

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Betty Jean Awrey



## Transit Vehicle and Equipment Seminar a Success!

"Great time. Great food. Great location." That was a comment made by a participant at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Transit Vehicle and Equipment Seminar held June 14-16 at the DNR MacMullan Center on Higgins Lake.

On Day One of the seminar, approximately 240 people, including 50 vendors, participated in the Vehicle and Equipment Show. On days two and three, even hard chairs and a little rain couldn't dampen the spirits of the approximately 125 transit personnel who attended the workshops. During the seminar, 67 people received their certification in the repair and maintenance of Braun lifts. One participant this year summed up the seminar with this comment, "The most beneficial aspect of the seminar continues to be the opportunity to meet the vendors, distributors, and manufacturers face to face."

Mark your 2001 calendars for June 13-15 for the 24<sup>th</sup> Transit Vehicle and Equipment Seminar. Please contact Jill Adams at 517/373-2051 or e-mail [adamsji@mdot.state.mi.us](mailto:adamsji@mdot.state.mi.us) if you have any questions or comments about this year's or next year's seminar.

## USDOT and USDA Launch New Joint Website

The U.S. Department of Transportation and the U.S. Department of Agriculture recently announced the launching of the joint internet website, Rural and Agricultural Transportation: Data and Information Resources (<http://www.bts.gov/ntl/ruraltransport/>). The website provides over 700 links to agricultural and rural transportation information and data.

Any feedback about this website should be e-mailed to Wendell Fletcher, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, at [Wendell.Fletcher@bts.dot.gov](mailto:Wendell.Fletcher@bts.dot.gov), or Nick Marathon, at [Nick.Marathon@usda.gov](mailto:Nick.Marathon@usda.gov).

## Two Tie for Top Individual Honors at Michigan Small Bus Rodeo



The biggest durn celebration of the summer was Michigan's Small Bus Rodeo held July 18, 2000. This was Bully the bus's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary and he had his tires a spinin'. Fifty-six drivers from agencies all over the state were ready to tame him. They competed in the Rodeo which tests their driving skills, their expertise in completing a bus inspection, and a written exam.

The following drivers were able to lasso up awards. First place honors in individual competition was a tie between Ed D'Oyly from Harbor Transit and Len Schmidt from Capital Area Transportation Authority. Dave Putman from Roscommon Mini Bus took second and third place went to Tim Olson from U.P. Community Services. These four individuals are eligible to compete in the national competition in Salt Lake City, Utah, next May.

The Capital Area Transportation Authority took top honors in team competition with drivers Len Schmidt, Nancy Irvine, and Steve Soliz

(see photo at left). The system was one of 27 teams that competed for recognition. There was a tie for second place team between Harbor Transit with drivers Patrick Hanna, Margaret Brown



and Ed D'Oyly and Roscommon Mini Bus with drivers Dave Putman, Mark Kauffman and Terry Parker. Third place went to Marq-Tran's John Clement and Boyde Anderson. A big thanks and YEE HA! to all the agencies and drivers that participated in this year's Rodeo.

There was plenty of hootin' and hollerin' at the Lansing Lugnugs game the night before the Rodeo. A big thanks to Hoekstra Truck and Equipment Company and Eldorado National for sponsoring the evening ball game and dinner. Nothin's better than chowin' down on them "dogies" and watchin' a good game.

We couldn't a done it if it weren't fer the judges from the police and sheriff's departments in the area and all the great UPTRAN volunteers. Hats off to everyone!

## PTMS Reports Module Now Available

There is now a Reports Module in the Public Transportation Management System (PTMS) that includes several financial reports and a vehicle report. Instructions for accessing this module were e-mailed to most agencies in late March and are also available on the PTD website ([www.mdot.state.mi.us/uptran/PTD/pub/ptmsreports.pdf](http://www.mdot.state.mi.us/uptran/PTD/pub/ptmsreports.pdf)). Once in the module you can choose from five types of reports and several different report parameters, such as quarterly or reconciled reports, year(s), and agency and service types (i.e. large urban, regular service).

Please contact Kathy Urda at 517/335-2575 or e-mail [urdak@mdot.state.mi.us](mailto:urdak@mdot.state.mi.us) if you have any comments or questions about this report module.

## MDOT News

The Cheboygan County Council on Aging recently sent a letter of appreciation to PTD's Manfred Stock acknowledging his donation of a walker with wheels. This type of walker costs approximately \$150 and enables seniors to be mobile while giving them something to hang on to for support. Thanks, Manny, for your generous gift.

Gary Teachworth, who retired from MDOT several years ago, is recuperating at home and would appreciate cards from his many friends in the transit community. Gary was honored at the 1999 Transit Vehicle and Equipment Seminar for his many years of involvement in the transit community. Gary's address is 436 W. North Street, Ionia, Michigan 48846. Get well soon, Gary.

## **Around the State**

### **Alma DART Celebrates 25 Years of Service**

Alma Dial-A-Ride (DART) celebrated 25 years of service in June with an open house at the Alma Transportation Center (ATC). Phil Kazmierski, Deputy Director of UPTRAN, made a special presentation to Alma Mayor Stewart McDonald recognizing the City of Alma for its efforts in providing public transportation for the past 25 years. Senator Mike Goshka and Representative Larry DeVuyst also provided special recognition and a plaque to the City of Alma.

Approximately 350 people attended the open house and enjoyed free hot dogs and refreshments and an array of gifts -- everything from free limo service to free DART rides to free lunches and even getting your hair and nails done at some of the local salons. Other transportation providers furnished vehicles and staff during the open house (Patient Equipment Locker, representing specialized transit; DreamKeepers Limousine Service; and Indian Trails).

Alma DART was established in June 1975 and was the 11<sup>th</sup> system in Michigan. Originally, approximately 50,000 riders in the Alma community were serviced by four buses. Over the years, the fleet has increased to 9 buses, ridership has increased to about 80,000, and services have been enhanced to efficiently service not only Alma, but also the city of Saint Louis, the Gratiot Community Airport, and a portion of Pine River Township. An evening service focuses on workers' transportation needs while providing service for the general public.

In 1995, a study funded by the federal government surveyed 1,100 systems nationwide and named Alma one of the top five most efficient agencies of the Section 5311 funded rural programs. Congratulations, Alma DART for 25 years of service!

### **Millage Successes!**

Congratulations to all transit agencies who had successful millage votes this month: Bay Metropolitan Transportation Authority; Buchanan Dial-A-Ride; Midland County Board of Commissioners (service operated by the Education and Training Connection); Saginaw Transit Area Regional Service (STARS); Ontonagon County Public Transit; and Gogebic County Transit.

### **Cass County Has New Transit Coordinator**



At its July Board Meeting, the Cass County Transit Authority named Dennis Schuh as its new Transportation Coordinator. He replaces John Steiding who passed away earlier this year.

Dennis brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise in the administration of a rural transit system and coordination with a private service provider, since he has served as the Transportation Coordinator for the Berrien County Transit System for approximately 10 years. He will continue in that capacity in addition to his duties at Cass County.

Dennis can be contacted at 616/983-7111, extension 8262.

### **Gogebic Transit and Greyhound Enhance Passenger Service and Safety**

Gogebic County Transit manager James Mildren recently met with Eric Thiry, Greyhound Sales Manager, and PTD's Forest Kraus to resolve intercity/transit passenger shelter and security issues at the Gogebic Transit facility.

Greyhound intercity bus passengers arrive and depart from the Gogebic Transit facility during non-business hours and must wait outside the facility. To enhance customer service and safety, a lighted bus shelter and security monitoring equipment will be installed. In addition, Greyhound arranged for a pay telephone outside the Gogebic facility.

Greyhound intercity bus passengers and Gogebic County transit passengers will both benefit from the bus shelter and the new pay telephone.

*Watch for these articles in the next edition of the Passenger Trans-Actions:*

- ( "Groundbreaking" news on Muskegon Area Transit System's new facility
- ( Harbor Transit's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration!

## **Around the State** (continued)

### **Allegan County Transportation Opens for Service!**

There's a new kid on the block -- Allegan County Transportation (ACT) officially opened for service with a ribbon cutting ceremony on July 17. The ceremony was attended by community leaders including Senator William Van Regenmorter, county commissioners, directors of several human service agencies, and many private sector groups interested in providing transportation for people to jobs and medical facilities.

The impressive turnout demonstrated the strong partnerships developed over the past several years during a needs assessment/coordination study, a search for funding, and finally the nitty-gritty planning and implementation of this much needed public transit service.

Several agencies including the Allegan County Board of Commissioners, Community Mental Health Services, Family Independence Agency, Intermediate School District, Allegan Resource and Development Committee, Interurban Transit Authority, ARC, Work First!, and Manpower joined forces to apply for the Job Access/Reverse Commute grant program to fund some of the services recommended by the needs study. Their hard (and quick) work paid off when the County was awarded the grant.

Dan Wedge is the new (and first) Transportation Coordinator for the county. Dan has done an excellent job of keeping this effective group working together to make its vision of a public transit system in Allegan County a reality. Transportation Management, Inc. (TMI) was selected to operate the service for the County and has appointed Brian Hadley to oversee the Allegan County operation.

Please join us in congratulating ACT and welcoming them to the public transit community!

### **Bob Zolkowski**

Bob Zolkowski, Assistant Executive Director for Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA), passed away on June 14 after a courageous battle with cancer. Bob began his career at CATA in 1993 as Paratransit Manager and became the Assistant Director in 1996. Bob was a real asset to the transit community and will be missed by all who knew him.

### **Marq-Tran Drivers and Dispatchers Recognized**

The Marquette-Alger Community Transition Council presented an Outstanding Citizenship Award to Marq-Tran's Drivers and Dispatchers for providing exceptional transportation support for classroom, vocational, recreational and diverse social opportunities and



Mary Short (center), Chairperson, Marquette-Alger Community Transition Council, presents an Outstanding Citizenship Award to Nanette Henderson, Marq-Tran Dispatcher, and Richard Tremblay, Marq-Tran Driver.

experiences for students with special needs.

Marq-Tran's dispatchers and drivers are well known for their care and consideration for their passengers. They treat them with dignity, respect and keep a watchful eye on them to ensure they reach their destinations safely. They encourage their passengers to use the public transportation system because it is a key to mobility, independence, the pursuit of happiness, and to becoming a productive member of society and a good citizen. The Council cited the caring attitude of Marq-Tran's drivers and dispatchers, especially for those with special needs, because accessible, user-friendly public transit forms a bridge to independent living and impacts favorably on all the transitional goals and outcomes.

Congratulations Marq-Tran for this important and well-deserved recognition.



## Project Zero's Success Continues

Each individual Project Zero site develops and implements a community-based plan which identifies its unique needs and secures necessary resources to meet those needs. To date, 59 sites have successfully reached zero which means that every targeted case had earned income at some point. Sites reaching zero have included rural, urban, and metropolitan areas.

Project Zero is expected to become a statewide program on October 1, 2000. Existing sites are updating their plans for FY 2001 and the remaining 15 counties targeted to

become Project Zero sites will be developing plans in early fall. Transportation Services Section staff will be monitoring the transportation component included in these plans. The funding match split for transportation services will be 50 percent MDOT and 25 percent from both the Michigan Department of Career Development and the Family Independence Agency.

For additional information, contact Lisa Funk at 517/373-8746 or e-mail [funkl@mdot.state.mi.us](mailto:funkl@mdot.state.mi.us).

## ADA UPDATE

### Disability Groups Celebrate ADA's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The Michigan Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Steering Committee and other disability organizations celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ADA by "Guarding the ADA Flame of Independence." The weeklong activities began July 19 on the State Capitol lawn with the lighting of the torch that symbolized the ADA Flame of Independence. Activities concluded on July 26 with a high energy rally featuring a representative from the Governor's office, Representatives Laura Toy and Lynne Martinez, keynote speaker John Sanford, and other public officials. Al Swain, Capital Area Center for Independent Living, was the master of ceremony.

The rally was sponsored by the ADA Steering Committee, which is part of a Great Lakes regional network that includes Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin. Formed in 1991, the steering committee is comprised of businesses, disability groups and government agencies all working together to increase the awareness and implementation of the ADA throughout the state.

Rose Ann Ward, Disability Specialist in UPTRAN, and David Esau, Cornerstone Designs of Ann Arbor, co-chair the steering committee which provides technical assistance, training, and grants. In addition, the steering committee houses an ADA Lending Library located at the Michigan Protection and Advocacy Services, Lansing office.

For additional information regarding the Lending Library and other resources available through the steering committee, call Tom Masseur at (517) 374-4627. Also, visit the steering committee's website at [www.adamich.org](http://www.adamich.org).

## Specialized Services Seminars in September

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) will host several seminars in September to address issues relevant to specialized services agencies. Please mark your calendar for one of the following dates and locations:

September 19, 2000	Eberhard Center, Grand Rapids
September 20, 2000	Ramada Inn Convention Center, Mackinaw City
September 21, 2000	Best Western, Farmington Hills

The featured speaker will be Kathryn Freund with the Independent Transportation Network (ITN) of Portland, Maine. She has received national recognition for ITN's unique 24 hour, 7-days a week transportation model which uses both volunteer and paid drivers to provide rides to seniors who can no longer drive.

Thanks to all specialized services and transit agencies who provided input on issues or topic areas that should be covered at the seminars. Although the seminars will be similar, the agendas are designed to include topics that are unique to each location. Areas of interest that will be discussed include, but are not limited to: transportation and managed care, ADA requirements, program funding, and volunteer driver program insurance/liability issues.

Watch your mail for registration forms in August. Call Rose Ann Ward at (517) 335-2598 or e-mail her at [wardr@mdot.state.mi.us](mailto:wardr@mdot.state.mi.us) if you have any questions regarding the seminars.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### APTA Annual Meeting

September 24-28, 2000  
San Francisco, CA



### PTD Annual Meeting

October 16-18, 2000  
Valley Plaza, Midland

### Rural Mobility Solutions for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Transportation Research Board

November 12-15, 2000  
Lake Tahoe, Nevada

The Passenger Trans-Actions is a quarterly news bulletins produced by the Michigan Department of Transportation, Passenger Transportation Division for the public transit providers in Michigan. Suggestions or comments may be sent to Jill Adams, MDOT/Passenger Transportation Division, P.O. Box 30050, Lansing, Michigan 48909, or call (517) 373-2051 (e-mail [adamsji@mdot.state.mi.us](mailto:adamsji@mdot.state.mi.us)). Alternative formats such as large print, braille, or audio-tape are available upon request by calling Rose Ann Ward (517) 335-2598. Total quarterly cost to print 500 copies: \$72.75 (\$0.15 per copy).